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MOTHERS2MOTHERS: REDUCING INFECTIONS THROUGH SUPPORT AND EDUCATION II (RISEII)

October 2019 – September 2023

Total Funding: \$7,5 Million

In 2019, the PEPFAR program in Angola shifted its HIV programming to focus on a family-focused prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) in four provinces: Benguela, Cunene, Lunda Sul and Huambo. USAID Angola and ExxonMobil Foundation supports mothers2mothers (m2m), an African based non-profit, to mitigate the effects of HIV and address a range of related health issues. m2m contributes its expertise to the First Lady of Angola's "Born Free to Shine initiative" aimed at the virtual elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and works in close partnership the Angolan Ministry of Health's Instituto Nacional de Luta Contra o SIDA (INLS) to expand a national mentor-mother model, focused on provision of comprehensive community and family centered index case testing and tracing, adherence support and treatment retention services. m2m impact is rooted in the Mentor Mother model of peer mentorships, education, role modeling and high-impact interventions. It is a model tested throughout the region and is part of the USAID RISE II award that contributes to the international goal of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic by 2030 by improving community health and well-being across Southern and Eastern Africa.

ACTIVITIES

- One-on-one sessions on Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission among pregnant and breastfeeding women
- Provision of integrated HIV, Malaria and COVID-19 prevention and linkage to relevant treatment care services
- Provision of routine education on HIV/TB, malaria and non-communicable diseases
- Health promotion services on child health, mental health, sexual reproductive health including community mobilization to increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake, health messaging to address vaccine hesitancy and misinformation
- Support treatment adherence, retention, and early infant diagnosis for HIV exposed infants
- Active linkage of HIV positive individuals with health facilities for treatment
- Screening for intimate partner violence and linkage to psycho-social support services
- Tracing Index contacts and linkage of consenting clients to mentor-mothers for community-based testing using District Health Information Software2 (DHIS2)
- Partnership with the Ministry of Health/Institute of Health Research (INLS) to train selected departments to lead future implementation of the Mentor Mothers model through the Ministry of Health

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 4,961 women living with HIV enrolled into the m2m program; 98% of these women received antiretroviral treatment
- Counseled and tested 4,066 index contacts for HIV and 91% of newly identified as HIV positive has initiated antiretroviral treatment
- Employed a total of 84 Mentor Mothers to work in the provinces of Benguela (27), Cunene (29), Lunda Sul (14), and Huambo (14)
- m2m provided prevention mother-to-child transmission counseling services in 14 health facilities and surrounding communities in the provinces of Cunene, Benguela, Lunda Sul and Huambo
- 15,427 of clients received e-services peer support via-phone to discuss adherence and treatment, COVID-19 prevention, importance of index testing and appointment reminders
- Trained Ministry of Health technical staff on the Mentor Mothers model
- Reached 2240 people through mass and social media with COVID-19-related risk communication messaging
- Trained 65 health workers and non-health workers trained on risk communication and community engagement

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